

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The Examiner is thanked for her specificity in identifying formal objections to the claim language. As will be seen below, applicant has made various changes to the claims to meet these objections.

Page 3 of Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 5-8 to remove the prior overlapping of broad and narrow ranges in the same claim.

Cancellation of claim 11 removes its rejection on page 2, bottom paragraph.

Page 4 of Office Action

Claim 6 has been made an independent process claim (rather than dependent on product claims 1-5).

Process claims 7 and 8 are now made dependent on process claim 6.

Claim 9 no longer refers to "process claim 1" and is a pure product claim.

In view of the above amendments, the objections of pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action have been overcome.

The rejection of the claims over Aini have been dropped. This leaves the rejection of claims 6-8 as containing subject matter not sufficiently supported in the specification as the sole remaining objection of this case.

The attached March 9, 1994 paper reflecting a symposium held on "Developments in Fat Fractionation Technology" (Society of the Chemical Industry, London) clearly establishes that "melt crystallization" and "high pressure membrane filtration" are well known to those skilled in the art. The Examiner's attention is specifically directed to pages 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 18 of the attached paper. Melt crystallization is an alternative to solvent fractionation, evaporation and detergent fractionation. It is referred to as dry fractionation where oil is partially crystallized by cooling. It is the cheapest separation technique and can be combined with high pressure membrane filters (page 4, top paragraph).

Membrane press filtration is used to overcome disadvantages of vacuum filtration and are often used with dry fractionation processes (page 9 bottom, page 12 top). It is by far the most preferred filtration technique in dry fractionation (page 15).

In sum, one skilled in the art could practice the present process claims without undue experimentation. The specification is clearly adequate to practice the claimed process.

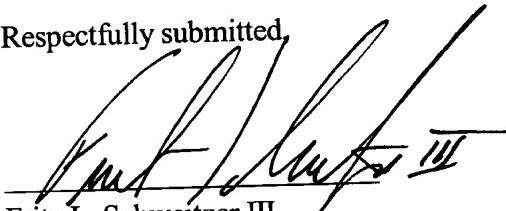
Applicant has provided documentation to support his assertion that these process techniques are well known as requested by the Examiner.

Allowance of the remaining process claims 6-8 (as well as product claims 1-5, 9 and 10) is respectfully requested.

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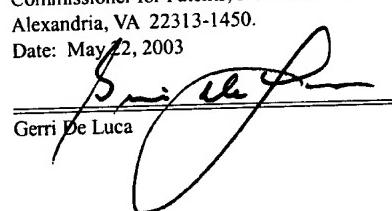
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 22, 2003



Gerri De Luca